

LESSON
05

ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD

SUNDAY – Knowledge *Versus* Love

1. Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13. Why does Paul contrast knowledge with love, and what is the context here? What point is he making?

A: “Freedom” cannot be stumbling block. Those who have “knowledge” restrict themselves so as not to scandalize.

¹Now concerning things sacrificed to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but love edifieth. ²If any man thinketh that he knoweth anything, he knoweth not yet as he ought to know; ³but if any man loveth God, the same is known by him. ⁴Concerning therefore the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that no idol is anything in the world, and that **there is no God but one**. [...] ⁷Howbeit **there is not in all men that knowledge**: but some, **being used until now to the idol**, eat as of a thing sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. ⁸But food will not commend us to God: neither, if we eat not, are we the worse; nor, if we eat, are we the better. ⁹But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to the weak. ¹⁰For if a man see thee who hast knowledge sitting at meat in an idol’s temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be emboldened to eat things sacrificed to idols? ¹¹For through thy knowledge he that is weak perisheth, the brother for whose sake Christ died. ¹²And thus, sinning against the brethren, and wounding their conscience when it is weak, ye sin against Christ. ¹³Wherefore, if meat causeth my brother to stumble, I will eat no flesh for evermore, that I cause not my brother to stumble.

MONDAY – Selfless Love

2. Read again 1 Corinthians 9:1-6. How does this passage provide a practical example of what it means to practice self-denial motivated by love?

A: Paul was an apostle, he had a right to be sustained by the church.
However, he chose to support himself.

1 Corinthians 9:1-6

¹Am I not free? am I not an apostle? have I not seen Jesus our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? ²If to others I am not an apostle, yet at least I am to you; for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord. ³My defence to them that examine me is this. ⁴**Have we no right to eat and to drink?** ⁵Have we no right to lead about a wife that is a believer, even as the rest of the apostles, and the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas? ⁶Or I only and Barnabas, have we not a right to forbear working? ⁷**What soldier ever serveth at his own charges?** who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

TUESDAY – Learning From the Past

3. Read 1 Corinthians 10:7-11. What sins did Israel commit in the wilderness? And why do the privileges granted to them make their sins even worse?

A: Lust, idolatry, fornication, by making trial of the Lord, murmuring.

To whom much has been given, much will be charged (see Luke 12:48).

1 Corinthians 10:5-12

⁵Howbeit **with most of them God was not well pleased**: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not **lust** after evil things, as they also lusted. ⁷Neither be ye **idolaters**, as were some of them; as it is written,

The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

⁸Neither let us commit **fornication**, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. ⁹Neither **let us make trial of the Lord**, as some of them made trial, and perished by the serpents. ¹⁰Neither murmur ye, as some of them **murmured**, and perished by the destroyer. ¹¹Now **these things happened unto them by way of example**; and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come. ¹²**Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.**

WEDNESDAY – Warning Against Idolatry

4. Read 1 Corinthians 10:5-22. Why must we flee from idolatry?

A: Because (i) God empowers; (ii) we must love God; (iii) We can only serve one master. Idolatry is spiritual adultery (immorality).

1 Corinthians 10:13-22

¹³There hath no **temptation taken you but such as man can bear**; but God is faithful, who **will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able**; but **will with the temptation make also the way of escape**, that ye may be able to endure it. ¹⁴**Wherefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.** ¹⁵I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say. ¹⁶The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ? ¹⁷seeing that we, who are many, are one bread, one body: **for we all partake of the one bread.** ¹⁸Behold Israel after the flesh: **have not they that eat the sacrifices communion with the altar?** ¹⁹What say I then? that a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have communion with demons. ²¹Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of demons: **ye cannot partake of the table of the Lord, and of the table of demons.** ²²**Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?**

THURSDAY – Overcoming Idolatry

5. Read Mark 10:17-22; 12:28-31. What do these two passages have in common, and how do they apply to the situation in 1 Corinthians 10?

A: Love can be an idol. For example, love of money.

Our priority is to love God and our neighbor. That should come first.

Mark 10:21-22

²¹And Jesus looking upon him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: **go, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven**: and come, follow me.

²²But his countenance fell at the saying, and he went away sorrowful: for he was one that had great possessions.

Mark 12:33-34

³³and to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is much more than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices. ³⁴And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, **Thou art not far from the kingdom of God**. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

1 Corinthians 10

⁷Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; [...] ¹¹Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and they were written for our admonition, [...] ¹³There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able [...].